

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Committee amendment, Mr. Clerk. Education Committee amendment. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0047, on page 382 of the Legislative Journal.) Senator Bohlke, to open on the committee amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Senator Coordsen and members. The committee amendment simply goes to the issue of immunizations. Currently those people home schooling have the perception that they are exempt from immunizations for religious purposes. This just clarifies that provision from the requirement to require immunizations if the student's parent or legal guardian signed that they were attending that type of school due to sincerely held religious beliefs.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Bohlke a question.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Bohlke, would you respond?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bohlke, are children who attend public schools covered by a provision like this, where the parents can say that, if they have a religious belief, then the children don't have to be immunized?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, they are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I wasn't aware of that. Every time I see this amendment rear its head, I try to strike it down. And I'm going to search out that provision in the law and see about striking it down, too. Members of the Legislature, it becomes necessary on occasion for the state to stand in the place of parents. Parents, as George Bernard Shaw once wrote, are the very ones who ought not be allowed to have children. The children often become symbols and objects by which parents express or push certain beliefs and ideas. This is known around here as the Christian Science amendment. And around here it's